



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Developing a National Food Strategy

## Call for evidence

August 2019



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[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

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# Background

On 27 June, Defra's Secretary of State commissioned Henry Dimbleby to conduct an independent review to help the government create its first [National Food Strategy](#) for 75 years.

The purpose of the review is to address the environmental and health problems caused by our food system, to ensure the security of our food supply, and to maximise the benefits of the coming revolution in agricultural technology.

The National Food Strategy will examine activity across several departments of state, building on the flagship [Agriculture Bill](#) and [Fisheries Bill](#) currently before Parliament, the [Industrial Strategy](#), the [Childhood Obesity Plan](#) and the upcoming [Environment Bill](#).

It is intended to be an overarching strategy for government, designed to ensure that our food system:

- delivers safe, healthy, affordable food, regardless of where people live or how much they earn
- is robust in the face of future shocks
- restores and enhances the natural environment for the next generation in this country
- is built upon a resilient, sustainable and humane agriculture sector
- is a thriving contributor to our urban and rural economies, delivering well paid jobs and supporting innovative producers and manufacturers across the country
- delivers all this in an efficient and cost-effective way

The government has committed to responding with a White Paper six months after the review is published. It has also asked Henry Dimbleby to review progress 12 months after that.

You can find the [terms of reference](#) for the review. You can also read about the principles that will guide the review, and its broad approach and timing, on the National Food Strategy [website](#).

## Why we are consulting

The purpose of this call for evidence is to gather inspiration to help us transform our food system. We want to hear from anyone who has a good idea: producers, processors, retailers, consumers, academics, policy specialists, inventors, farm labourers, factory workers, health care practitioners, charity workers, or simply interested citizens.

We are looking for ideas big and small. From government policies to simple practical things that make a difference in your community or your business. These might be things that are already working well, here or abroad, and that could be scaled up or used

differently. Or they might be new ideas: things that haven't been tried yet at scale, but which you think have the potential to improve the system. We would like to understand the rationale for your proposals and study the accompanying evidence.

The scope of the strategy is within England, but we would also love to hear from people in the devolved administrations or abroad.

We are looking for innovations you have seen work in your home, your neighbourhood, or your business, in this country or beyond: ideas that help citizens make informed decisions about the food they eat, or which increase access to and affordability of high-quality food; ideas that make food production more environmentally sustainable, creating a flourishing countryside rich in wildlife; ideas that help farming, fishing and food businesses and communities thrive, benefitting employees and the wider community; or that promote the highest standards of animal health and welfare; or that could put England at the forefront of innovation and reshape our food system in the coming years.

We will publish a summary of the responses on the government website at: [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra) 12 weeks after the consultation closes.

## Note to academics

We will be reading a huge amount of published evidence, and we may be calling for more technical evidence later in the process. In the meantime, we would particularly like to hear about new research which:

1. Strengthens or challenges the conclusions of previous reviews into specific topics. For example, interventions to prevent obesity, or the roles of regenerative and other types of agricultural practices – anything that could help us improve any part of the food system.
2. Is complete but hasn't yet been published, where the findings contribute significantly to the debate.
3. Is still ongoing but where, again, the emerging findings might contribute significantly to the debate.

## How to submit evidence

The easiest way to submit your ideas is via the [online survey](#) but you can also send responses to the email or the postal address below:

- [Foodstrategycallforevidence@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Foodstrategycallforevidence@defra.gov.uk)

or

- National Food Strategy Team,  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,  
Area SE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Seacole Building,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London,  
SW1P 4DF

We ask you to keep your responses to 1,000 words or fewer, not including the list of references and supporting evidence. Where you are referencing but not attaching supporting documents, please describe them accurately, including the correct authors, titles, dates and publisher, so that we can find them ourselves.

We will be reviewing previous consultations and calls for evidence, and will build on the work underway in the Agriculture Bill, the Environment Bill, the Fisheries Bill, the Industrial Strategy and the Childhood Obesity Plan. If you have submitted interesting ideas and solutions to these consultations that you don't think have been picked up in the policy, please feel free to resubmit. Please reference the original consultation to which it was submitted.

## Data protection notice

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at: [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your

response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide including any personal data, with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and only.

Defra is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide, and Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/personal-information-charter>.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Co-ordinator  
7th Floor, Nobel House  
17 Smith Square,  
London.  
SW1P 3JR

## Call for evidence questions

### Confidentiality

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

**YES / NO**

Please explain clearly in writing why you need to keep these details confidential

## Introduction

2. What is your name
3. What is your email address
4. What is your organisation
5. Are you a;
  - a) Business - In an official capacity representing the views of an individual business – *please skip to question 6*
  - b) Individual - You are responding with your personal views, rather than as an official representative of a business / business association / other organisation – *please skip to question 11*
  - c) Non-Governmental Organisation - In an official capacity as the representative of a non-governmental organisation / trade union / trade body / other organisation – *please skip to question 15*
  - d) Academic or Academic Institution
  - e) Public Sector body - In an official capacity as a representative of a local government organisation / public service provider / other public sector body in the UK or elsewhere – *please skip to question 17*

## About your business

6. How many employees are in your business?
  - a) 1-9
  - b) 10-49
  - c) 50-249
  - d) 250+
  
7. Where does your business operate (please select all that apply)
  - a) North East
  - b) North West
  - c) West Midlands

- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London
- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

8. What sector of the economy does your business primarily operate in?
- a) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
  - b) Manufacturing
  - c) Water supply, Sewage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
  - d) Construction
  - e) Wholesale and Retail Trade
  - f) Transportation and Storage
  - g) Accommodation and Food Service Activities
  - h) Information and Insurance Activities
  - i) Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
  - j) Administrative Support Services Activities
  - k) Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security
  - l) Education
  - m) Human Health and Social Work Activities
  - n) Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
  - o) Other Service Activities
  - p) Activities of Households as Employers, Undifferentiated Goods-and-Services-Producing Activities of Households For Own Use
  - q) Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies
  - r) Other

9. If in the agri-food sector which subsector does your businesses primarily operate in?
- a) Arable farming
  - b) Grazing livestock farming
  - c) Pigs / poultry farming
  - d) Horticulture
  - e) Aquaculture
  - f) Fishing
  - g) Food & drink manufacturing
  - h) Distribution
  - i) Wholesale
  - j) Retail
  - k) Catering / hospitality

l) Other

10. Please describe in a few words what the primary activities of your business are?

## About you

11. What area of the UK do you currently live?

- a) North East
- b) North West
- c) West Midlands
- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London
- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

12. If you are working, what sector of economy does your employer primarily operate in?

- a) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- b) Manufacturing
- c) Water supply, Sewage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
- d) Construction
- e) Wholesale and Retail Trade
- f) Transportation and Storage
- g) Accommodation and Food Service Activities
- h) Information and Insurance Activities
- i) Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
- j) Administrative Support Services Activities
- k) Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security
- l) Education
- m) Human Health and Social Work Activities
- n) Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- o) Other Service Activities
- p) Activities of Households as Employers, Undifferentiated Goods-and-Services-Producing Activities of Households For Own Use
- q) Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies

r) Other

13. If you work in the agri-food sector, please specify which area you primarily work in.

- a) Arable farming
- b) Grazing livestock farming
- c) Pigs / poultry farming
- d) Horticulture
- e) Aquaculture
- f) Fishing
- g) Food & drink manufacturing
- h) Distribution
- i) Wholesale
- j) Retail
- k) Catering / hospitality
- l) Other

14. Please describe in a few words what the primary activities of the business you work for are?

## About your organisation

15. What area does your organisation primarily operate within?

- a) The prevention or relief of poverty
- b) The advancement of education
- c) The advancement of religion
- d) The advancement of health or the saving of lives
- e) The advancement of citizenship or community development
- f) The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
- g) The advancement of amateur sport
- h) The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity
- i) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- j) The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- k) The advancement of animal welfare
- l) The promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown, or of the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance service
- m) Trade body or union
- n) Any other charitable purposes

16. Where does your organisation operate? (please select all that apply)

- a) North East

- b) North West
- c) West Midlands
- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London
- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

## Public sector body

17. What type of body are you:
- a) Central Government Department
  - b) An Arms-Length Body / Non-ministerial department/Government agency
  - c) Local government
  - d) Devolved government
  - e) Other

## Your views

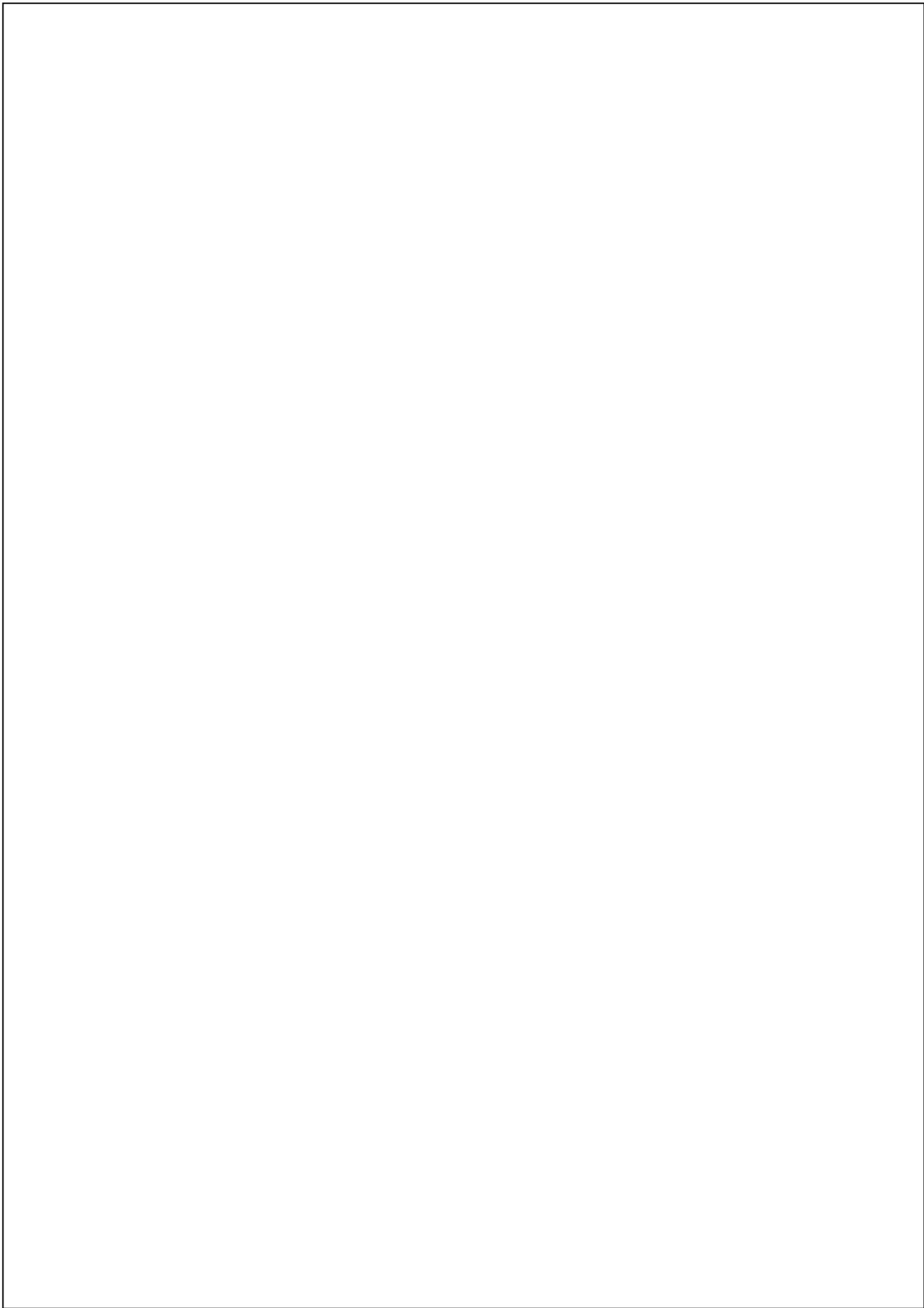
18. Remember, we want to use this process to discover actions and policies both big and small to help transform the food system. This might include ideas that:

- help citizens make informed decisions about the food they eat,
- increase access to and affordability of high-quality food;
- help prevent diet-related disease;
- make food production more environmentally sustainable, and help prevent climate change
- create a flourishing countryside rich in wildlife;
- support farming, fishing and food businesses and communities thrive, benefitting employees and the wider community;
- promote the highest standards of animal health and welfare;
- put our food system at the forefront of innovation

19. We would like to understand the rationale behind your idea and study any accompanying evidence. For example, it might be an innovation that is already working well in your home, neighbourhood or business and could be scaled-up; or perhaps it is already happening in other countries. It could be a policy which could take a smaller idea to scale, or make a big idea a reality. We are also open to new ideas that might not have been tested but which you think have the potential to

improve the system.

Please enter your response in the box below.



20. Which of the following areas does your response best relate to? (please select all that apply)

- a) Agriculture
- b) Economy
- c) Environment
- d) Food Security
- e) Health
- f) Other (please specify below)